# The Washington Times

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HURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1915.

# ANYHOW, GET THE SHIPS!

How they shall be provided, e no difference of opinion on the tain point, which is that the ships

ught to be provided, and that soon. Nobody has been able to make p a satisfactory statement of the sses of the world's merchant' maine by reason of the war. Great umbers have been destroyed, and des that, the merchant ships conand many other war uses are bein the service of peace. The waste, in other words, is only in part, probbly in minor part, represented by he actual losses of vessels.

Further, while American and Japanse ship yards are turning out vessels in greater numbers than ever he yards of Europe are devoting themselves chiefly to naval construction, and the world's new construction of merchantmen is probably very low. When the war ends there will be a great expansion of gemand on merchant shipping, be-Europe will demand unprecedented quantities of the most bulky materials.

Right now is the time for the United States to equip itself for a recovery of its rightful place on the scas Let the opportunity not be

## THE WAR AND THE SCHOOLS

Washington schools were among the first in the country to announce that the war was a legitimate subject for classroom study. A year's experience, school officials agree, has vindicated this position.

Some cities tried the futile experiment of prohibiting all mention of the war in their schools. Philadelphia attempted this ostrich procedure. Before the year was half over pupils were found to be studying maps that no longer were correet, and avoiding most of the world news because the war had warped and changed the current of the day's happenings so much that it could not be avoided if current events were to be studied at all.

In Washington schools the war has been studied from an objective viewpoint. Pupils have been encouraged thereby to a deeper interest in history and geography. They have been given apt illustrations of forces that shaped history, but which of its most useful personnel must be are absent in times of peace. Ancient wars were made to seem real. partnership possible. Lord Haldane, other State in the Eastern group vere clearly shown by the events transpiring before their eyes.

teaching force that its members have been able to handle the subject so tactfully that, during the year, not a single complaint has been registered of the treatment. No teacher has been accused of being not neutral. Pupils in Washington tre better citizens for their study of he biggest single news subject of

# UNITED HEBREW CHARITIES

eport of its president, Lee Baum- line with enthusiasm and success. arten, is wide; and commendation deserved because the \$4,611 was xpended without any other expense han \$300 for clerical hire. This

tructive work in helping the needy ple of Washington. to help themselves, and in correct- The relations between nations and ng conditions that handicap them. their national capital cities might An example was the payment of the be made the subject of a library. business college fees of two un- The national capital is a sort of trained girls who without business front door and parlor to the nation. a Texas train now realize they were education could have earned but a There are peculiar relations, of usurping a strictly American privifew dollars a week. Now they are both sense and sentiment, why it lege.

making persons 'independent who be especially illuminating:

mether through subsidy or special "In Memoriam" gifts, which made dvantages or by direct Government up nearly \$300 of the charity fund uilding, is important in discussion this year. Instead of sending flowf the problem of getting ships for ers to funerals the friends of those metican commerce; but there can who die make contributions to the

reat numbers will be in future. Be- tion has cared for new arrivals in erted to use as transports, colliers, has supplied garments and food; in ng worn out as they would not be tions that are beyond the reach of

cause the processes of rebuilding in places it is that a government rep-

verse influence at home cannot become strong enough through compromise and concession at home to overwhelm hostile power abroad.

The strongest support any party can command is within itself. Men do not feel the loyalty and devotion to the principles of others that they do to their own. They will not regard as their own either the principles belonging to them but modified or the principles borrowed from others and sugar-coated not to satisfy themselves but those with whom they do not naturally agree and cannot normally act in concert.

Then, too, not only much of the best of a party's principles but some for example, had to be sent away It is a tribute to the Washington room for some of the strange and the women as they were in Jersey.

it had a coalition cabinet.

"he annual meeting of find comfort and strength in a newebrew Charities em- ly organized government of men The vote on Tuesday was about remarkable work of who, all pulling together, can and 65,000 less than in the 1912 Presiation in Washington, will set themselves to a common dential poll. It is fair to assume idicated by the annual purpose and hew straight to the

# COUNTRIES AND CAPITALS

One of the most interesting sechows the devotion and the loyalty tions of the brief on Washington f workers who give much of their fiscal relations with the Federal me for nothing to the arduous and Government is that dealing with lifficult tasks of relief and investi- those relations in other countries. It would be impressive if this part The field of the United Hebrew of the document could have been harities is much wider than that of developed farther; but the condenaid to the needy. In many sation given by the brief is one vays the organization has done con- easily to be understood by the peo-

the United Hebrew Charities has politan cities, these excerpts from been one of the greatest factors in the citizens' committee report will

the United Hebrew Charities has been one of the greatest factors in making persons 'independent who otherwise might have been kept on the roster of dependents.

Another suggestion is that urging legislation to compel grown children who are able to do so to care for aged and infirm parents. Many cases have been found where the parents of those who are earning good salaries have been committed to public or private charitable care. Senator Pomerene has introduced a bill providing such compulsory support, but it was lost sight of in the pressure of other legislation.

No one phase of this society's work is more characteristic than the "In Memoriam" gifts, which made up nearly \$300 of the charity fund this year. Instead of sending flowers to funerals the friends of those who die make contributions to the United Hebrew Charities. The sentiment is a pretty and a highly practicable one.

No mention of the work of the United Hebrew Charities is complete without a mention of the excellent aid rendered by the Council of Jewish Women. That organization has cared for new arrivals in the city, has ministered to the sick, has supplied garments and food; in short, has performed all the functions that are beyond the reach of man's activities.

ASQUITH'S SHAKING MINISTRY

For weeks the Asquith ministry in Great Britain has been awaying before the storm of factional politics, Now the signs that it is to fail are all but unmistakable.

There was never a sound reason for the organization of a coalition continue the system of a large in all places it is that a government replaced to the sign, has been thing them. In public affairs it is a sign of weakness, both in policy and in administration to seek to avoid domestic criticism by taking into partnership the criticising opposition. A policy and an administration of the responsive to a specific, definite, concrete something than to a general, vague, and vacillating nothing.

In human undertakings there is no possibility of making harmony out of elements inharmonious by scrambling the

## THE WOMEN IN NEW JERSEY

To say that woman suffrage was defeated in New Jersey, and at a special election, by 50,000, suggests that it was an overwhelming disaster. But to put down all the figures in the case makes it less conclusive The women's cause polled eleven votes to every fifteen cast against it; and the fact that a total of 365,-000 votes were cast shows a real interest which makes for further improvement in behalf of the move-

Stories of frauds at the polls are circumstantial and numerous, and an investigation of these is a serious possibility. Probably there is no from the war ministry in the As- this season, in which the politicians quith government to satisfy or make will be so nearly unanimous against unwelcome guests invited to the In no other State does so large a board. He was a bigger and a better asset for his government than inconvenient to vote, because tens all the substitutes it obtained, either of thousands of Jerseymen spend before or after the actual coalition. most of their daylight hours outside If Asquith's government has de-their home State, and for these to served to fall, it is not because of vote means a very real sacrifice of what it did before it had a coalition time and convenience. It is, therecabinet; it is because of what it has fore, safe to judge that the differfailed, could not but fail, to do since ence between the vote cast on Tuesday, and that polled in a general After the shock of this crashing election, was chiefly represented by ministry the British nation may well men who were not willing to take the time away from their business that the women's cause averaged stronger among the men who go out of the State during the day, than among those who remain at home The commuters are largely of the class from which the support of suffrage is recruited; therefore it is probable that if they had all voted the majority against the amendment would have been largely reduced. and even that it might have carried. There will be no such defection from a normal vote in either of the other States that are to vote this year. It is by no means to be taken for

# MAIL BAG

(From The Times' Readers.)

Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the paper enly; must not exceed 200 words in length, and must be signed with name and address of sender. The publication of letters in The Times' Mail Bag does not mean the indorsement by The Times of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is an open forum, where the citizens of Washington can argue most questions.

Considers Secretary Lane's Article Interesting and Important.

Interesting and importants
To the Editor of THE TIMES:
I think Secretary Lane's recent narrative in The Times of some things the
Government is doing in Alaska is not
only exceedingly interesting, but equaliy important. It seems to me the policy
of the Government now is to seek the
welfare of the whole people. welfare of the whole people.

NATHAN BICKFORD.

Washington, Uctober 18.

Here's a Chance For Memory Prodigies and Scrapbook Fanatics.

To the Editor of THE TIMES

If it is not inconsistent with your policy will you please give me your opinion as to the winner of the following bet:

In the early part of the present Administration.

opinion as to the winner of the following bet:

In the early part of the present Administration A bet II that President Wilson "would not refuse a single request of W. J. Bryan during his (Wilson) would not refuse a single request of W. J. Bryan during his (Wilson) entire Administration. It was agreed that the city papers were to be relied upon in deciding the bet. B now claims that he has won, and bases his claim on the note sent to Germany which led to the disagreement between the President and Mr. Bryan requested the President to send a milder note, and that he refused.

A claims that there is nothing in the papers which indicates that Mr. Bryan requested the President to send a milder note but rather himself refused to sign the note which the President had drafted, and that according to the language of the bet B has not won. A maintains that while there have, undoubtedly, been disagreements that there is still no evidence that any request of Mr. Bryan was refused.

Washington, October 18.

Quotes Shakespears

Quotes Shakespeare As Advocate Of Preparedness.

o the Editor of THE TIMES: In view of the manly stand The Times as taken in regard to "preparedness" am quoting from "Henry V" in an ffort to convince the "milk and water" peing who trusts in the seclusion of his library to the very doubtful protec-tion of an inadequate army and navy, that even Shakespeare had "the right

idea":
It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe:
For neace itself should not so dull a kingdom,
Though war nor no known quarrel be in question,

"in question, But that defenses, musters, preparations.

Should be insintained, assembled and collected

As were a war in expectation.

(Act II, scene 3.)

Washington, Oct. 18. R. D. B.

A Taxation Plan.

to the Editor of THE TIMES:
Under your heading, "Organic Act learing Will then Tomorrow," occurs this sentence: "Mr. Browne a rief as summarized in The Times ast Sunday, argues that if District troperty were adequately taxed, a federal contribution would be un-

Change "property" to mand the senten e would correctly control to the senten e would correctly control to the senten e would correctly property proposition. District property personality, improvements, occupations, businesses—are all heaver illy taxed now. I propose to lessen or temove all taxes save taxes on land values, which I propose to adequately increase and liquor licenses, which I propose to base on value of location. An increase of land taxes will not increase rents. Rents are as high as linerease rents. Rents are as high as linerease rents. Rents are as high as linerease rents. ange "property" to "land values," the senten e would correctly con-my proposition. District prop-

cond to reduce rents. A lessenine of the tax on improvements will make about rents that much cheaper. The abolition of water rents will still further reduce the cost of living. So will the abolition of the tax on banking, on personalty, on automobiles, and the abolition of the scores of licenses on as many kinds of occupations. So, too, will the abolition of the scores of petty fees which contributed to the reaction a maintenance of its land values. Two other factors, however, hypering at the District building.

The one thing when the grows by other men's sweat is land value. Tax it the District building.

Washington, Oct. 19.

The Ninety-eight and the Two. In these days of frenzied shricking for "national preparedness" by the own-

In these days of frenzied shricking for "national preparedness" by the owners of munitions factories, and the lickskittle bought press, the following editorial from the October Successful Farming comes like a refreshing shower at the close of a heated day:

The Commission on Industrial Relations, which has been delving into the problems of capital and labor for many months, has made its reports in the Manley report we read that 2 per cent of the people own 60 per cent of the wealth of this nation. This means that the 2 per cent control the destinies of the 36 per cent. At their beek and call, should they operate together, prosperity or panic may come upon the 36 per cent. At their beek and call, should they operate together, prosperity or panic may come upon the 36 per cent. At their beek and call, should they operate together, prosperity or panic may come upon the 36 per cent. At their beek and call, should they operate together, prosperity or panic may come upon the 37 per cent. And we have every reason to believe that many a panic has been of political making, or a purely selfish financial coup.

Is it not about time we were getting serious over the liberties and opportunities of the 38 per cent? There is a great propaganda on now to increase our war equipment, to "strengthen our defense." It is this 2 per cent who will profit most by either war or rumors of war. Will the 2 per cent who own 60 per cent of the cost of defense? Will the 2 per cent of the fighting solders and sailors? No, they expect the 38 per cent who own the 40 per cent of wallt to de the real fighting to protect the wealth of the 2 per cent.

ONE OF THE NINETY-EIGHT. ONE OF THE NINETY-EIGHT. Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 18.

THE ALIBI" LEADS ALL-STORY WEEKLY

# One Year Ago Today in the War WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

The Franco- Belgian coast battle continued, allies blocking vicious German onslaughts. Germany claimed the capture if 20,000 British and many machine guns at Lille.

The Prussian diet voted \$375,000,000 more for war. Chancellor Delbruck declared Germany would fight to lasting peace. Austro-Germans continued to drive the Russians back in Galicia and Bukowina, Vienna said.

The German army's retreat from Warsaw continued, and 2,000 Austrian officers and men and many machine guns were captured in Galicia, Petrograd claimed.

England released one, but held two other American oil ships, while America filed another protest. England asserted the oiler Brindilla, one of the vessels held, was German-owned.

# Tax on Land Value Is Urged for District

Reform Association's Brief Argues For Exemption Of Improvements From Burden-Expert Browne Assails Management of Assessor's Office.

speculators are the main beneficiaries of the half-and-half arrangement. The brief of the joint citizens' committee, filed by Henry B. F. Macfarland, deals more particularly with the duty the Federal Government owes the Capital, asserts that it is impossible for District residents to maintain the proper sort of national capital here and asserts incidentally that the Washington tax rate is already high as compared with other gitles of like class. The Congressional investigating committee probably will be at its task until the opening of Congress. Senator Works and Congressman Cooper were especially emphatic in saying that the subject under inquiry should be thoroughly considered, and no attempt should be made, however, to prevent duplication of testimony and to shut off long-winded arguments by individuals who represent only themselves.

Lengthy Hearing Foresen. (Continued from First Page.)

Aren at this strenuous pace is already and up the hearings within three committees will do well ad up the hearings within three and the committee accept after Chilton. namely. Senators allobury and an other property and are prepared to devote their entire time to the small heart and th District would necessarily have been higher, and the greater pressure of taxation would have retarded the growth of land values. In point of fact, the land owners and land speculators of the District have been permitted to capitalize the amount of the annual Federal subsidy in the form of increased land values, the corglary of which is higher rents.

"The legal rate of taxation on both land and improvements in the District is 1% per cent on an assessment of not less than two-thirds of true value. Assuming a uniform assessment of two-thirds of true value, the nominal rate of taxation is 1 per cent, or 15 mills on

the dollar. It is, however, a well-known fact that the land values of the District aspecially the speculative tracts in the uburbs of the city and the building ites in the business and reas have for many years past been rossly underassessed as compared with buildings and improvements. ssessed above two-thirds of their

Goes To Few Owners.

The Tax Reform Association arguthat under the present system of taxation a great part of the Federal subsidy, whether it be large or small, grav-itates into the pockets of a comparaively few land owners, and the average The brief continues: in appropriating funds from the na

"In appropriating funds from the national treasury for the development and support of the Nation's Capital, it is undoubtedly the purpose and intent of Congress that the residents of the District shall be relieved from taxation to the extent of the Federal contribution. This purpose is defeated by the existing system of taxation.

"What is saved in lower taxes is lost in higher rents and in the higher cost of building sites. Under present conditions, the people of each and every State of the Union are (many of them unconsciously) helping to maintain and

Series of Thrilling Incidents of Unjust Charges.

The Mexican bandits who robbed a Texas train now realize they were isurping a strictly American priviege.

Villa has about as much chance of eing recognized as a portrait by a uturist artist.

Series of Thrilling Incidents of Unjust Charges.

Series of Thrilling Incidents of Unjust Charges.

Of Unjust Charges.

Series of Thrilling Incidents of Unjust Charges.

The work in the second of any crime is bad enough, but when, through a web of strange circumstances one faces the gallows because of such accusation, there is tragedy indeed.

Such is the thrilling situation that faces Walter Mansfield, hero of "The Another unfortunate result of the premium which it has placed upon the gins in this week's issue of the All-Story of eing recognized as a portrait by a uturist artist.

Series of Thrilling Incidents of the Union are tmany of them state of the Union are summy of them state of the Union are su

few dollars a week. Now they are both sense and sentiment, why it grade and sentiment, why it grade especially attractions making \$10 each as stenographers, should be made especially attraction should be made especially attraction as stenographers. Similar personal service has been tive. No nation on earth has ever rendered the children put on probation by the Juvenile Court under the society's supervision. Not a single-lor, none has provided so many resonal service has been tive. No nation on earth has every tried so hard as the United States to make the Capital merely a particular attraction. Not a single-lor, none has provided so many resonal service has been tive. No nation on earth has every tried so hard as the United States to make the Capital merely a particular attraction. Not a single-lor, none has provided so many resonal service has a plead of columbia. Those who have a special provided so many resonal service has a plead of the dust of columbia. Those who have a special grounder tried so hard as the United States to make the Capital merely a particular attraction. Not a single-lor, none has provided so many resonal service corporated to the Commental tried of the same and on earth has every some organized six the dustry interest in the maintenance of the substitute of the dust of columbia. Those who have a special grounder at the dustry interest in the maintenance of the substitute of columbia. Those who have a special grounder at the substitute of the substitute of the substitute of the substitute of the dustry of the substitu

which may be secured by maintaining the present form of government.

"We do not admit that the disfranchisement of the District people is a necessary consequence of the half-and-half aystem. Under any fiscal system, the residents of the District are justly entitled to a voice in the local government which they are taxed to support. But if, in the judgment of Congress, the half-and-half system must be modified before local self-government can be granted, we are ready, and we believe that a majority of the District people are ready, for any necessary modification of that fiscal system."

District Land Values.

District Land Values.

The brief says the land values of the District of Columbia are not less the \$1,000 per capita, as compared with

essors; Annual assessments of real Assessments on the basis of full

"a. Assessments on the basis of f value, instead of two-thirds valua-tion, and an adjustable tax rate; "4. The enactment of a law a quiring true considerations to stated in deeds." Those Who Signed Brief.

The committee signing the brief of the Tax Reform Association comprises W.

Williams, president, and Walter I. Swanton, secretary, of the Tax Reform

# IN CAPITAL TODAY

Lecture, Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Lanking, clubrooms, 1214 F street northwest, 8 p. m.

Convention, First and Second Class Postmasters, Raleigh Hotel, all day
Public Installation, William B, Cushing Camp, No. 20, Sons of Veterans, in camp headquarters, 1412 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, 8 p. m.

Meeting, executive committee of the District of Columbia Suffrage League, west study room, Public Library, 8 p. m.

Illustrated Jecture, "What Is Rechablam," Sam De Nedrey, Typographical Temple, 8 p. m.

Masonic, Naval, No. 6 La Pavente, No. 48

p. m. Mannir, Naval. No. 4: La Payette, No. 19; William R. Singleton, No. 30; Adoniram Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masons; Esther, No. 5. Eastern Star. Odd Fellows-Columbia, No. 10; Covenant, No. 13; Salem, No. 21; Knights of Columbia-Spaiding Council, National Union-National Council, Mt. Vernon Council.

### Amusements.

National - "Potash and Perimutter." p. m. 1 Belasco. "The Revolt." \$115 p. m. B. F. Keith's Vaudeville, 2:15 and \$115 p. m. Poll's 'At Bay," 2:15 and \$15 p. m. Low's Columbia, Photoplay, 12 to 11 p. m. Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Lecture, "Plower Gardening," Miss Susan B. Sipes, under auspices of social service com-mittee of the church and Parents' League, Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, 5 p.

Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, 8 p.
m.
Meeting, Admiral George Deney Camp, No.
7, U.S. W. V. Northeast Temple, 8 p. m.
Masonic-St. John's, No. 11, Takoma, No. 11;
Cathedral, No. 14, St. John's Lodge, No.
15; Eastern Star.
Old Fellows-Central, No. 1; Metropolis, No.
16; Phoenix, No. 28,
National Union-East Washington Council,
McKinley Council,
Knights of Pythias-Syracusians, No.
18; Rathbone-Superior, No. 29, Rathbone Temple, No. 3, Pythian Nisters
C. E. Society of New York Avenus Presbyterian Church, reception, 8,20 to 11 p. m. at
the Cairo.

rict, nine-tenths of whom would pay The partial shifting of the burden of along the well established economic line of assessing benefits on the thing benefited. It is done in the District nadequately and unsciential inadequately and unscientifically water main and sewer extensions, sidewalks, curbing, and paving, and street extensions. In California it

subject under inquiry should be thoroughly considered, and no attempt should be made to curtail legitimate discussion and argument. An attempt will be made, however, to prevent diplication of testimony and to shut off long-winded arguments by individuals who represent only themselves.

Lengthy Hearing Foresen.

With the arrival of Chairman Chilton, Monday, the committee will convene at 10 o'clock, sit until 1 o'clock, reconvene at 2, and adjourn at 5 o'clock adally. Even at this strenuous pace it is estimated the committee will do well to wind up the hearings within three or four weeks.

All members of the committee except Senator Chilton, namely, Senators Saulsbury and Works, and Congressment Rainey, Gard, and Cooper, reached washington yesterday, and are prepared to devote their entire time to the

value of new buildings under construction, to keep informed in regard to the
shifting land values in the various sections of the city, and personally to
view and assess every parcel of propcity in the District. It is a physical impossibility for three men to properly
perform such a task. To provide meana
for the proper and equitable assessment
of property, we urge:

"I. An increase in the number of
assessors;

of the Diaz "lentings" regime, and
taxation of land values is one of the
thief tenets of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
values is called taxation of land values is one of the
thief tenets of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
values is called taxation of land values is one of the
thief tenets of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
various sections of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
values is one of the
thief tenets of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
values is and values is one of the
thief tenets of the revolution.

The wonderful development of the
values of its people and its institutions but to free access to
vast areas of public lands, and still
more to taxation of land values, which
has served in a decree to restrain the
unmeasured greed and injury of land
monopoly."

monopoly

Proposals For Relief. In conclusion, Mr. Browne makes the following "recommendations for relief" of the present situation:

batton of the Federal Government shall immediately and fully cease. "Second, that the whole system of taxation in the District he reorganized on a just and scientific basis, abolish-ing all unjust and oppressive forms of

D. Mackenzie, chairman, B. F. Lindas, secretary; Jennie L. Munroe, Charles S. Davis, Elias J. Dakin, James Hugh Keeley, George A. Warren, and Herbert L. Adams.

The brief is attested by H. Martin, Williams, president, and Walter L. Secretary, and Walter L. Secretary.

Williams, president, and Walter L. Secretary.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

# ADMINISTRATIVE.

Williams, president, and Walter I. Swanton, secretary, of the Tax Reform Association.

Land value" assessments are also strongly advocated in the brief filed by liferbert J. Browne. Mr. Browne assess that the District can be self-supporting and does not need nor deserve a Federal subsidy.

T propose an increase of 50 per cent in Bouor licenses by adding a special tax on the value of location," he says in discussing where the District may raise more than \$13,800,000 annually. On this point he says:

In Two Categories.

Taxable land in the District may be broadly divided into two categories of approximately equal value—business areas, with over \$1 per square foot, and special holdings worth over \$100 per continuous properties.

LEGISLATIVE.

LEGISLATIVE.

"Annual, in place if triennial, assessments.
"The recording of the true considera-

"The recording of the true consideration in all real estate transfers.

"The abolition of the requirement for
the assessors in the field personally and
jointly to "view" each piece of property.

"The creation of a board of appeals,
from which the field assessors shall be
excluded.

"The power to be respond to the Com-